REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified Application is respectfully requested. Claims 8 and 15 - 17 are in the case. Claim 8 has been amended. Claims 1 - 7 and 9 - 14 have been canceled. Claims 15 - 17 have been added.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 5, 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, these claims have been canceled, thus rendering this rejection moot. It is therefore respectfully submitted that this rejection has been overcome. Wherefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

It is noted that in the language incorporated into Claim 8 from Claim 5 changes have been made that, it is respectfully submitted, address the grounds for the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by the 222A Repeater specification, these claims have been canceled, thereby rendering this rejection moot. Wherefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the 222A Repeater specification as applied to Claim 2 in view of the Balay patent, this claim has been canceled, thereby rendering this rejection moot. Wherefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 5, 7, 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the 222A Repeater specification as applied to Claims 1 and 2, and further in view of MDRAM, Claims 5 and 7 have been canceled, thereby rendering this rejection moot with respect thereto, while this rejection is traversed with respect to Claim 8, which has been reworded to make it independent. Claim 8 recites a system for extending a signal path of a host bus, including a first repeater portion connected to a first segment of the host

bus, a second repeater portion connected to a second, non-hierarchical segment of the host bus, and a transaction decode circuit connected to the interface to the first bus segment to determine which transactions on the first bus segment to accept and pass on over the serial link. The 222A Repeater specification was cited for the allegation that it shows a transaction decode circuit, with specific reference made to elements 'R0' and 'R1' and signal 'RSEL' in 'Block Diagram' on page 1. However, it is respectfully noted that the signal RSEL does not control the 222A Repeater to determine which transactions on a *single* bus segment to accept and pass on over a serial link. Rather, it is a control signal for a multiplexer function. Thus, it controls the 222A Repeater to determine from which of *two* busses data is to be provided to an output buffer. This is a very different function for a very different purpose.

It was argued in the above-mentioned Advisory Action with respect to the 222A Repeater specification, "Signal RSEL determines whether element R0 allows data to pass through from the input to the output. As such, signal RSEL determines *which* transactions on the first bus segment are accepted and passed on over the serial link." (Emphasis added.) It is respectfully submitted that the first of those two statements is correct, while the second does not follow, and is incorrect. The conjunction "whether" is quite different from the pronoun "which." The word "whether" introduces alternative possibilities, while the word "which" indicates what particular ones, for example what particular ones are selected. In the cited reference, the signal RSEL merely determines whether data is or is not passed on over the signal link. It does not determine which among different ones of transactions are accepted and passed on over the serial link. The distinction is of critical import in functionality, and in the limitations of Claim 8. Thus the 222A Repeater specification in no way shows or suggests a transaction decode circuit connected to an interface to a first bus segment to determine which transactions on the first bus segment to accept and pass on over the serial link. It only teaches simply allowing or not allowing to pass data.

Of course, this is in the context of a multiplexer function, and therefore when R0 is allowing data R1 is blocking data, and vice versa. Thus, the signal RSEL controls the 222A Repeater to determine from which of *two* busses data is to be provided to an output buffer, not which transactions on a single bus segment to accept and pass on over a serial link.

Further, the MDRAM reference fails to cure the deficiencies of the 222A Repeater specification. The other art of record is even less relevant. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that neither the 222A Repeater specification nor the MDRAM reference nor, indeed, any of the art of record teach or suggest the invention as set forth in Claim 8, and that therefore Claim 8 is allowable. Wherefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

New Claims 15 - 17 depend, either directly or indirectly, from Claim 8, and so it is therefore respectfully submitted that they are allowable for the same reasons as those set forth above for the allowability of Claim 8, as well as for the additional limitations found therein. Their allowance is therefore is respectfully requested.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 6 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the 222A Repeater specification as applied to Claim 1, and further in view of MDRAM, these claims have been canceled, thereby rendering this rejection moot. Wherefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

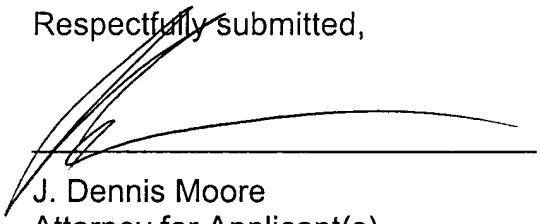
It is respectfully submitted that the claims recite the patentably distinguishing features of the invention and that, taken together with the above remarks, the present application is now in proper form for allowance. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, and allowance of the claims are requested at an early date.

While it is believed that the instant amendment places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or

suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

To the extent necessary, the Applicants petition for an Extension of Time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136. Please charge any fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees to the Deposit Account No. 20-0668 of Texas Instruments Incorporated.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Dennis Moore
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 28,885

Texas Instruments Incorporated
P.O. Box 655474, MS 3999
Dallas, TX 75265
Phone: (972) 917-5646
Fax: (972) 917-4418